An Account of ſome Books lately publiſhed.

I. PINAX Rerum Naturalium BRITTANIARUM continens VEGETABILIA, ANIMALIA & FOSSILIA, in hoc inſula reperta, Inchoatus, Auth. Chriſtophoro Merret, *Med.D.& utriuſque* Societatis Regiæ *ſocio.*

The Learned and Inquiſitive Author of this Book, hath by his laudable example of collecting together, what Natural things are to be found here in *England*, of all ſorts (which he has done upon his own expences) given an invitation to the curious in all parts of the world to attempt the like, thereby to eſtabliſh the much deſired and highly uſeful commerce among *Naturaliſts*, and to contribute every where to the compoſing of a genuin and full *Hiſtory of Nature.*

In the *Preface* he intimates, that his ſtock does ſtill encreaſe dayly; and that therefore the Reader may expect an *Appendix* to this collection.

In the Body of the Book, he enumerates all the *Species*, Alphabetically: And, as to *Vegetables*, he reckons up about 410. ſorts; and gives their *Latine* and *Engliſh* Names, and the *Places* and *Times* of their growth: reducing them afterwards to certain *Claſſes*, hitherto uſed by *Botanick* Writers in their *Hiſtories* of *Plants*: Adding the *Etymology* of their Generick Names, and a compendious *Regiſter* of the Time, *when* and *how long* the *Engliſh* Plants do ſhoot and flouriſh.

As to *Animals*, he finds of them about 340. kinds in *England*, whereof the *four-footed* are about 50. *Birds* 170. and *Fiſhes* 120. *Inſects* are innumerable, which yet he endeavours to enumerate, and to reduce to certain *Claſſes*; into which he alſo brings the three former kinds.

Concerning *Foſſils*, he *firſt* takes notice of the *Metals* found in *Engliſh* Mines; as *Silver*, *Tin*, *Copper*, *Iron*, *Lead*, *Antimony*, and ſome *Gold* extracted out of *Tin*. Next of the *Stones*, of which he finds about 70 ſorts;& amongſt them, *Briſtol-Diamonds*, *Agates*, *Hyacinths*, *Emerods*, *Load-ſtones*, *Toad-ſtones* (which laſt yet he affirms to be nothing but the grinding-teeth of the Fiſh

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Fiſh *Lupus*) *Pearls*, *Corals*, *Marble*, *Alablaſter*, *Emery*: To which he adds the various kinds of *Coals*; as alſo *Bitumens*, *Turfs*, and *Jets*. And *thirdly* of the various kinds of *Allum*, *Vitriol*, *Niter*, *Sea-ſalt*, *Pit-ſalt*. But *fourthly* of the various *Earths*, of which he reckons up 15. peculiar ſorts (beſides thoſe that ſerve for *Husbandry*, which are not eaſily numbred;) and amongſt them *Read-lead*, *Black-lead* and *Fullers-earth*.

He concludes all with mentioning the ſeveral *Meteors* appearing in *England*; and the *Hot Springs*, and *Medical Waters*; as alſo, the *Salin*, *Petrifying*, and ſome more unuſual Springs: *Item*, *Subterraneous Trees*, *Subterraneous Rivers*, *Ebbings and Flowings of Wells*, *&c.*

II. PLACITA PHILOSOPHICA Guarini. The chief ſubject of this Treatiſe is Natural *Philoſophy*; upon many important queſtions whereof it inlargeth, as thoſe of the Motion of the Celeſtial Bodies, of Light, of Meteors, and of the vital and animal functions; leaving ſometimes the common opinions, and delighting in the defence of *Paradoxes*.

E.G. That the material ſubſtantial Form, is nothing but *mera potentia*, and ſubſiſts not by it ſelf: by which means the Author judges, he can free himſelf from many great difficulties touching *Generation* and *Corruption*, which do perplex the other Philoſophers.

He holds *Epicycles* to be impoſſible, and *Excentricks*, not ſufficient to explicate the motion of the Stars; but that all the irregularities of this motion may be ſalved by the means of certain *Spiral* Lines; largely proving this *Hypotheſis*, and particularly explicating the motion of each Planet.

He denies the middle Region of the Air to be cold; and believes that cold is not neceſſary to condenſe the vapours into Water.

He admits not that received Axiome, *That the generation of one Body is the corruption of another*; maintaining that there are *Generations*, to which no corruption ever preceeded; and that it may happen, that one Animal without dying may be changed into another Animal.

He alledges ſeveral reaſons to evince, that the Air breathed in, enters not only into the whole capacity of the Cheſt, but alſo into the lower belly.

He is of opinion, that the Air, which is commonly believed to corrupt eaſily, is incorruptible; alledging among other reaſons, this for one, that experience ſhews, that if a Botle be exactly ſtop'd, there is never any mixt Body form'd in it; wherefore, *ſaith he*, the Air is not corrupted there.

He maintains, that 'tis not the *Magnet* that draws the Iron, but rather the Iron that attracts the *Magnet*. To explain which he affirms, that the Load-ſtone ſpreads abroad out of it ſelf many corpuſcles, which the ſubſtance of the Iron imbibes; and that, as dry things attract thoſe that are moiſt, by the ſame reaſon Iron draws the Load-ſtone.

He rejects the *ſpecies Intentionales*, *Vital* and *Animal* Spirits, and holds many other uncommon opinions, touching *Light*, the *Iris*, the *Flux and Re-flux of the Sea*, *&c.*

III. GUSTUS ORGANUM per Laurentium Bellini *noviſſimè deprehenſum.*

This Author propoſing to himſelf to diſcover both the principal *Organ* of the *Taſte*, and the nature of its *object*, begins with the latter, and examines firſt, what is *Taſte*? He judges that it is cauſed by nothing but Salts, which being variouſly figured, affects the tongue variouſly: alledging this for his chief reaſon, that the Salt which is extracted by *Chymiſts* out of any mixt body whateuer it be, carries away with it all its taſte, and that the reſt remains taſte-leſs. He adds that the Teeth in grinding the Food, ſerve much to extract this Salt: And he notes by the by, that the Teeth are ſo neceſſary for preparing the aliment, that certain Animals which ſeem to have none, have them in their ſtomach; and that nature has put at the entry of the palat of thoſe that are altogether deſtitute of them, certain moveable inequalities, which are to them inſtead of Teeth.

But then *ſecondly*, concerning the *Organ* of Taſte, he eſteems, that 'tis neither the Fleſh, nor the Tongue, nor the Membrans, nor the Nerves found there, nor the Glanduls, called *Amygdalinæ*; but thoſe *little eminences*, that are found upon the tongue of all Animals. To obtain which, he obſerves,

1. That from the middle of the Tongue to the root, as alſo towards the tip, there are found innumerable *little Riſings* called

led *Papillares*; but that from the tip of the **Tongue** unto the ſtring there is obſerved none at all.

2. He hath experimented, that if you put *Sal Armoniack* upon the places of the Tongue, where thoſe *Eminencies* are not, you ſhall find no Taſte; but that you will find it preſently, aſſoon you put any ſuch Salt, where they are to be met with. Ergo, *ſaith he*, thoſe *Eminencies* are the principal Organ of Taſte.

3. He aſſures, that with a *Microſcope* may be ſeen in thoſe *Riſings* many little holes, at the bottom whereof there are ſmall nerves, terminating there: But *he directs*, to obſerve this in live and healthy, not in dead or ſick Animals.

Having laid down theſe Obſervations, he concludes, that the manner, after which Taſte is perform'd, is this, That the particles of Salt paſſing through thoſe pores, which pierce the *Papillary Eminences*, and penetrating as far as to the nerves, that meet them there, do by the means of their ſmall points prick them; which pricking is called the *Taſte*.

In the mean time he acknowledges, that before him Signior *Malpighi*, Profeſſor at *Meſſina*, had made ſome of theſe diſcoveries.

The notice of theſe two laſt Books we owe to the *French Journal*.

Correct in Numb. 19.
Pag. 342. lin. 33. read *mixt Ores* in ſtead of, *mixt with Ores*.

Correct in this preſent Numb. 20.
Page 359. line 13. Read *Marle* for *Pearle*.

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